



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS BRANSON FELON OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Branson, Mo., felon was convicted by a federal jury today for illegally possessing a firearm.

**Mitchell A. Cannon**, 47, of Branson, was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm by a federal jury in Springfield.

Following the presentation of evidence in **Cannon's** trial, the jury in U.S. District Court in Springfield returned the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr, ending a trial that began Sept. 27, 2004.

Specifically, the jury found **Cannon** guilty of illegally possessing three firearms (two rifles and one shotgun) on Feb. 3, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm. **Cannon** has two 1975 criminal felony convictions for burglary and assault with the intent to murder, a 1995 criminal felony conviction for distribution, delivery or sale of a controlled substance and a 1996 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

**Cannon** was arrested on Feb. 3, 2004, when law enforcement officers conducted a search of his residence after learning that he had an outstanding warrant from Kansas City, Mo. **Cannon** was later charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 31, 2004, in Springfield.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hendrickson. It was investigated by COMET (the Combined Ozark Multi-agency Enforcement Team), the Taney County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)